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# To his Highness the Lord PROTECTOR of England, Scotland and Ireland, &c.

The humble Petition of the Proprietors, Commoners and  
Mineral Bounders of the Deserted and Drowned Mines  
within the Counties of Cornwal and Devon.

Sheweth,

**T**HAT your Petitioners observing the Experimental way of Mr. *Bushell's* Proceedings, to be not only the most probable to discover the vast Mineral-Treasure supposed to lie in the Metal-loads of that Beacon-Hill called *Hingston-Down*, *Cowme-Martin* in *Devon*, and *Gwynop* in *Cornwal*; But likewise the onely probable means to enrich these Western parts, and your other Territories with inestimable treasure, by following his example in all drowned and deserted Works; And because we find he hath no more desire of Partnership then the assistance of Providence, and your Highness patronising this his commendable Enterprise, nor any other ambition then gratitude to the memory of that great Philosopher, his deceased Master, the Lord Chancellor *Bacon*, and to make our Age the president and honor of fulfilling the old proverb, *Hingston-Down welly wrought, is worth London-Town dearey bought*.

Now in regard the Lord's of the Fee, and Commoners thereof, as well as the major part of the Mineral bounders, have with all cheerful alacritie (for the publick good of this Nation) subscribed their affectionate Consents to this great Work, in a Letter to Mr. *Bushell* hereunto annexed:

We your Petitioners do in the behalf of our selves and  
the Mineral Bounders of *Cornwal* and *Devon*, implore  
A your

your Highness speedy Confirmation of Mr. Busbell's Articles, without his personal attendance in London, according to the gracious signification of your Highness favors to his Petition, that no time may be lost in so honorable a Design, nor he disabled or dismaid in so general a Concernment; since we find him exceeding active to study the preservation of your Honors and Dignities, with the Countries advancement, as to your Highness wisdom may appear by the demonstration of his Mineral Overtures, and a draught of his unanswerable Reasons likewise annexed.

<i>Charls Trevanion</i>	<i>Richard Arundell</i>	<i>John Coryton</i>
<i>Tho. Mainard</i>	<i>Fran. Buller jun.</i>	<i>John Lampen</i>
<i>Edw. Herle</i>	<i>Fa. Launce</i>	<i>Tho. Grose</i>
<i>Fo. Chatley</i>	<i>David Hawes</i>	<i>John Fathers</i>
<i>John Tremenhere</i>	<i>Chr. Wood</i>	<i>William Wrey</i>
<i>Phi. Lanyon</i>	<i>Will. Wise</i>	<i>Nath. Tarvanion</i>
<i>William</i>	<i>F. Boscowen</i>	<i>Will. Ross.</i>
<i>Edw. Wise</i>	<i>Tho. Lower.</i>	

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SIR,

WE have seriously considered the proffer'd Civilities in your Letter, and the plain Demonstrations in your ingenuous Reasons, to cut North and South through the lowest Level of *Hingston-Down*, for crossing all such Metal-loads as lie East and West, and for freeing the Mines from the impediment of water; by which you may vereifie the old proverb, *Hingston-Down welly wrought, is worth London-Tons dearey bought*: And therefore you may rest assured, that we shall give our free consents and endevours to procure other Gentlemen of our County to further your most noble and unparallel'd design, that a speedy dispatch may be made there-

(3)

of for the general good of the Nation, which is and shall be  
ever very much desired by

Novemb. 11. 1656.

Sir,

Your very ready friends and  
Servants,

Edw. Herle.	Phi. Lanyon.	John Harris.
Cha. Trevanion.	Natha Tarvanyon.	Nich. Sharrell.
Fr. Boscoven.	Hn. Pomeroy.	John Battersby.
Chicheste Wrey.	Tho. Grose.	Fr. Tremenhore
Edw. Wise.	Richard Arundell.	Will. Wrey.
William Wise.	William Rous.	William Cysgrave.
John Lampen.	N. Borlace.	Edward Wilcocks.
Ja. Launce.	Tho. Lower.	John Fathers.
Richard Erisey.	Fran. Buller.	David Haws.
Jo. Chatley.	John Coryton.	

For our Noble Friend Tho. Bushell Esq; These.

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Mr. Bushels Letter to the Miners of Mendyp, and their  
Answer, with the Furies Order.

Fellow Miners,

Upon the Overtures of my Mineral Discoveries taught me by  
the Theory of my old Master the Lord Chancellor Bacon's  
Philosophical Conceptions, His Highness the Lord Protector upon  
hopes of the like providence in all his other Territories to ease the  
Nation of their Taxes, gave me power to try the aforesaid Experi-  
ments, since it was conceived by the aforesaid Lord, that great  
riches lay in the Bowels of our Mother Earth, and underneath the  
superficies of the most barren Mountains; and in order to such his

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commands, I have not onely published the inclosed declaration for satisfaction to all moderate persons, which have not unbiassed Principles against the honor of their native Country, but also am setting on foot the drowned and deserted works in the naked Promontories of Hingston Down, Coom-Martine in Devon, and Guy-nop in Cornwal : And being likewise informed by your fellow Miners, that Millions of wealth lie in Rowpits neer Chewton-Minery, which yet cannot be recovered from the inundation of water by the greatest Artists of former Ages : I have upon my own deliberation and viewing the place, thought fit to render you the experience of my practical endeavors, and with a willing mind to attempt the Forelorn hope of their recoveries at my own charge, if I may have the well-wishes of you in general, and the moiety or half, bearing equal charge, when the water is drained ; your speedy answer shall make me decline or prosecute the same with effect, which is the only ambition of

April 21. 1657.

Your faithful Friend,

T. B.

For his very loving Friends, John Phelps, Tho. Voules, Will. Cole, Alex. Fett, Will. Betten, Rob. Radford, and Tho. Wood, with the rest, these deliver.

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Right Worshipful,

**M**Anna from Heaven was not more welcome to the Pilgrims of Isiach, then the good news your Letter brought to us poor Miners of Mendyp, who now are like Moses in the Mount, which saw the Land of Promise, and yet could not enjoy the propriety thereof ; even so fares it now with us : For a month or two of a droughsy Summer we behold the appearance of much treasure lying in the veins of those metal Loads, and so soon as we are preparing for Harvest, to reap a mite of its Mineral profit, the inundation

of water takes away our present possession, and leaves us exposed  
to a sad condition, having no other Profession for our livelihood.  
But if your goodness and charity will be pleased to extend the in-  
terest of your knowledge to draw the Rake called the Broad Rake of  
Sir Bevis Bulmar's Works in Rowpits near Chewton Minery,  
which is known to be the lowest Level; and Sole of those Works;  
We do herein engage our selves under our hands and Seals, and on  
the behalf of all others that shall hereafter work in the said Rake,  
that you and your Assizes shall have the moyety of the whole, paying  
half the charge; and likewise procure the Lord of the Soil to do the  
like, if you please to proceed with speed for the perfecting of the  
same; and in token of our affection to serve you, we have pre-  
sumed not onely to petition his Highness in your behalf for the  
better encouragement, but also oblige our selves to tender you the  
first refusal of all our parts and shares of Oar, paying ready money,  
and giving us from time to time the same rate as other Merchants  
shall conceive it to be worth: And so we bid you heartily farewell,  
refining.

May 2. 1657.

Your ever obliged Servants,

Valen Tryme,	Tho. Atwood sen.	Rob. Clark sen.
for his part.	John Naish.	Rob. Clark jun.
Tho. White.	Edw. Hopkins.	Tho. Voules.
Ioh. Hoskins.	Nich. Plumley.	Tho. Atwood jun.
Andrew Baller.	John Hinsh.	Alex. Jeit.
Nich. Barrel.	Rich. Friar.	Tho. Rowles.
John Blackhouse.	Jam. Middleham.	Nich. Parker.
John Johnsons.	John Phelps.	Will. Dudden.
Will. Norman.	Will. Voules.	John Radford.
John Thrisel.	John Cole.	Rob. Radford.

For Tho. Bushell, Esq;

*Chewton.*

*Chewton-Fury, May 28. 1657.*

VVHereas we of this Mineral Grand Jury are credibly informed of the great design for the publike good of the Miners, which do adventure in Rompits, and is now undertaken by *Tho. Bushel Esq;* which were formerly the deserted Works left by *Sir Bevis Bulmar* in the time of Queen Elizabeths Reign, and whereas many of the chief Adventures in the said Rompits do and have consented to surrender the one half of their Works and Mines there unto the said *Tho. Bushel* and his Assigns, when the said *Tho. Bushel* doth make it appear, that by his or their Workmanship they be freed of the inundation of their Waters, unto the Mineral Court for the time being: We of this Jury do order and make this Decree, that when it shall happen that the said *Tho. Bushel* doth prove that he hath by his Workmanship done by him and his Assigns, cleared any Miners work as aforesaid, unto the Jury as aforesaid, he shall enjoy the one half of the Works: Provided alwaies, the said *Tho. Bushel* and they shall be liable to pay all Mineral costs and charges, as far as he and they are entrusted, agreeable to the custom and Law of the Occupation; and to this we all agree, and have subscribed our hands, the day and year first above written.

*Andrew Baller.*

*Jo. Phelps.*

*Tho. Attwood sen.*

*Nich. Barrel.*

*Will. Norman.*

*Nich. Parker.*

*Io. Cornish.*

*Edw. Hopkins.*

*Will. Dudden.*

*Tho. Rowles.*

*John Blackhouse.*

*John House.*

*John Hoskins.*

*John Thrifflie.*

*John Johnsons,*

*Tho. Attwood jun.*

*Nich. Plumley.*

*Valen Dudden.*

To his Highness the Lord Protector of  
England, Scotland and Ireland, &c.

*The humble Petition of the Mineral-Bounders within the  
County of Somerset.*

*Sheweth,*

**T**HAT your Petitioners observing the experimental way  
of Mr. Bushell's proceedings to recover the vast Mineral  
Treasure known to lie in the drowned and deserted Works  
of that antient Forrest called Mendip-hill; And being like-  
wise the only probable means to enrich your other Terri-  
tories, by following his example in concealed places of the  
like nature:

We your Petitioners do in the behalf of our selves, and  
the generalitie of laborious Miners, who have no other  
subsistence then Providence in those harmless affairs,  
humbly implore your Highness confirmation of Mr.  
Bushell's Articles without his personal attendance, that  
no time may be lost in such an honorable concernment;  
since his active diligence in that Mineral proceed is to  
study the preservation of the Poor's livelihood under  
ground, as well as the riches, honor and profit it may  
afford to the Nation by this his invention, according  
to your Highness trust reposed in him for that purpose,  
as appears by the demonstrative Reasons of his Mineral  
Overtures.

*The*

The Grand-Jury for the Libertie of the Castle of Rich-  
mond upon the Forrest of Mendyp.

Jo. Radford Foreman	Tho. Chapman	James Tucker
Will. Colliar	William Barrell	Jo. Tucker
Jo. Spiring	John Barrell	Na. Brown
Jo. Midell	And. Spirrin	Jo. Bary
Jo. Liget	Jo. Bates	Jo. Martin
Will. Ames	Will. Bush	James Hyden
Roger Tegg	Jo. Haydon	Andrew Bath
Rich. Harris	Will. Haydon	Sam. Cox
Walter Hoads	Rich. Haydon	Jo. Tegg
Will Fry	Will. Chyles	Tho. Blackman
Tho. Vowles	Rich. Filer	Anth. Eggesfield
Mich. Curtis	Geo. Filer	Jo. Harris.
Hen. Hutchins	Jo. Canby	

The Grand-Jury for the Libertie of Charterhouse-Hydon  
upon the Forrest of Mendyp.

Robert Radford	Will. Lane sen.	Walter Thutchens
James Brown	Jo. Lane	Jo. Brock
Mat. Chanster	Rich. Thomas	Geo. Tucker
Jo. Plumley	Clark	Will. Cole
Peter Herler	Will. Lane jun.	Jo. Blackman
Leonard Fox	Geo. Whithead	Tho. Blackman
Geo. Colse	Jo. Chanster	Jo. Waker
Will. Bluning	Fra. Ozer	Geo. Hoskins.
Will. Tucker		

Master

Mr. Basbee's *Affidavit.*

**V**V Alter Basbee aged about eighty years, maketh oath, That he was Saymaster to *Goldsmiths Hall* about fifty years ago, and vers'd in Minerals ever since both at home and abroad, and was by King *James* sent to the Emperor of *Russia* to make him a Standard of Gold and Silver in his Mint in the City of *Moscovia*, equivalent to the Tower of *London*; And no sooner was that service performed by this Deponent, but his Imperial Majesty commanded him to refine the Gold of a rich Copper-mine lying in *Cyberca*, five hundred miles beyond the river *Volgo*, which held of Gold in every Tun to the value of three, four, or five hundred pounds; where this Deponent did remain until he was taken prisoner by the *Tartars*, and afterwards exchanged by the Emperor to be sent for *England*; where this Deponent hath ever since spent most of his time, under Mr. *Bushell's* Philosophical way, taught him by the late Lord Chancellor *Bacon*, which (in the judgment of this Deponent) cannot be parallel'd by any; and if now practised according to his printed Remonstrance, and the Mineral Grand-Jury's Order of *Chepton*, this Deponent doth verily believe that the Age we live in will exceed all former Ages in Mineral Discoveries and their Separations.

Walter Basbee.

Sworne the 7. of December 1658.  
before me one of the Masters of  
Chancery in ordinary,

W. Glascock.

Christo-

## Christopher Wright's Affidavit.

**C**hristopher Wright aged fifty six years maketh oath, That he was sent by Mr. Joseph Hexeter of Cumberland to be in the same place of Steward for direction of Mr. Bushell Minerals under ground, as the said Mr. Hexeter was under him in Wales at 100*l.* per ann. salary: And finding the said Mr. Bushell to give such probable reasons for recovering the inundation of water out of the vast and drowned Works of Rowpits, by persuing a Drift as a Common-shore, from the Concaves of a natural swallow twenty fathom deep, after his industrie had sunk twenty shafts to discover the same, on purpose to come to the rich loads of metal known to be buried in the adjacent groves of water: This Deponent and others, upon confidence of making good his great undertakings therein (although his judgment was then much questioned by the Inhabitants for the attempt) did and do desire but half wages ever since the Miners of Mendip had invited the said Mr. Bushell under their hands and Decree of their Court, to have half the profit, bearing half the charge, after the water was drained, which this Deponent doth verily believe will be in a short time perfected, and appear for precedent sake, as well as for present profit, the greatest work that hath been done by any Mineralist these hundred years, if the malicious attempts of some ill-natured persons do not now hinder the growth of his proceedings therein: For this Deponent doth depose, that by some wicked persons there was a great Lake of muddy water turned about the hour of midnight, and upon a great flood, into the Swallow, on purpose as is conceived to choak it, and so consequently to drown his men that came from forein parts, and were then working twenty fathom deep, which this Deponent doth aver were forced to save their lives by running up their grooves at the same time, the swallow being not able to receive the torrent of its water. And this Deponent doth likewise depo-

pose, That about the 10. of October last there was some other such envious person who pulled down so much of the under-timber of his Shaft, that the whole groove of earth fell into Mr. Bushels Drift, when his men were at work underneath; and it was supposed by divers never to be recovered: But thanks be to God, the danger is past, and Mr. Bushels Drift goeth on towards the rich works known to lie 150 fathom before him; for this Deponent was one of the workmen that landed 100*l.* per week out of one Shaft this last summer, and saw 200*l.* per week out of another; but the charge of drawing water, though in the drought of summer, stood (as they reported) in 80*l.* per week apiece, which Mr. Bushels Drift will prevent; and likewise to 1000 more of the like nature as are supposed to be within the verge of Ropwits.

*Christopher Wright.*

Sworne the 3. of December 1658.  
before me one of the Masters of  
Chancery in ordinary,

*W. Glascock.*

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### *The Testimony of some Miners of Mendyp to the Council.*

WE whose names are hereunder written, being Miners, and well vers'd in the Mineral Rakes of Ropwits upon the Forrest of Mendyp, are ready to testify upon oath, That the great wrongs done to the works of Tho. Busbell Esq; in Ropwits, as is depos'd by Christopher Wright before a Master of Chancery, are of a certain truth; And we are likewise ready to testify our opinions upon oath, That if the way of Mr. Bushels now proceeding to recover those drowned and deserted

deserted works, may go on without molestation, according to the Orders of the Grand Jury of *Chewton* made for encouragement, we do believe in our consciences that the hath not been these hundred years such a service done this Commonwealth, in advancing the knowledge of the Miners trade, for profit and precedent. And we also humbly conceive, that if a binding Order be made by your Lordship to confirm ( in all points ) the said Grand Jury of *Chewton* Orders for deterring unrule Miners from such exorbitancies as also that no persons should lose any more their Summer work to follow the Mines of *Rowpits* ( which are now to a more purpose in matter of profit, than to wash the Black moor ) until Mr. *Bushells* Drift can come up to drain their undation of waters, which ( as we find express in his Remonstrance ) he doth undertake to perfect in four years; and we do verily believe, that not only all the Oar may be then landed for two shillings per Tun, but that we shall then also know the inestimable riches of that place without further charge or ruining more families in working upon *Rowpits*. And we do also confidently believe in our consciences, that when Mr. *Bushells* now Drift from his Swallow doth come up to the old works drowned, and that he doth pursue likewise his Cross Rake from his Swallow to the forebreast of Sir *Bevis Bulmar*, deserted work, ( as he saith he intends to do, so soon as he hath secured the place according to agreement, and the Grand Jury's Order of *Chewton* dated the 28. of May ) the said Mr. *Bushell* will make good his Marqus of a Thousand pounds per week: For there are men yet alive that will justify, that the forebreast of Sir *Bevis Bulmar*'s work was nine foot wide in oar; and we ourselves know, that a hundred pounds per week out of one Groove in the old work is ordinary, when the suffocation of water doth not hinder them.

*Fo. Bakehouse*  
*Tho. Bakehouse*  
*Fo. Doxie.*